United Nations A/73/413

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 October 2018
English
Original: Spanish

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 8
General debate

Letter dated 4 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to write with regard to the statement made by the President of Chile, Sebastián Piñera Echeñique, on 27 September 2018, during the high-level general debate of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

We reject in the strongest terms the reference to Cuba that Mr. Piñera made in his statement and, in that connection, please find attached the written statement of my delegation in exercise of the right of reply to the above-mentioned statement (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Anayansi **Rodríguez Camejo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-16639 (E) 091018 091018

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 4 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Reply of Cuba to the statement by the President of Chile, Sebastian Piñera Echeñique, on 27 September 2018, during the high-level general debate of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly

We hereby exercise the right of reply with regard to the statement made by the President of Chile and reject in the strongest terms what was said with respect to Cuba.

Instead of acting to serve foreign interests that seek to tarnish the image of progressive and revolutionary Governments in the region and proclaiming himself a champion of human rights, Mr. Piñera should concern himself with guaranteeing the human rights of the indigenous and aboriginal peoples of his own country. He must put an end to the indiscriminate application of the so-called "Counter-Terrorism Act" in trials of the Mapuche, including its illegal application against minors.

He must cease the repression in that country of protesters, especially students, and the excessive use of force by the police, including the use of tear gas, arbitrary detention, torture, mistreatment, beatings and threats, such as those that occurred during his previous mandate.

Mr. Piñera should also ensure that he does not further hinder justice or promote legislation to afford impunity to those who repressed, tortured, murdered or caused the disappearance of hundreds of their compatriots in the years of the abhorrent Pinochet dictatorship.

The Cuban people will continue to build their own future, without outside interference. The strength of Cuba lies in its principles, including its solidarity, internationalism and humanism.